

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2006

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This broadcast can also be heard on Echolink by connecting to ZS6FCS or to www.zs6mrk.org and following the indicated links. This, and previous bulletins, can be downloaded from the web site of the SARL i.e. www.sarl.org.za. You can read or download previous bulletins from there and subscribe to receive future bulletins by email.

This transmission is by Hans, ZS6KR, on 145,725 and 7,066 MHz from Pretoria with a relays on 3,695 and 14,235 MHz as well as 438,825 MHz in the Pretoria area. (Other newsreaders please change to suit).

SILENT KEY

It is with deep regret that the Council of the SARL announces the passing of Ben van den Berg, ZS6BDU, of Carolina on 6 December. We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to his wife Lucy, family and friends.

(PAUSE)

In the news today:

DETAILS OF A BURSARY SCHEME ANNOUNCED

WINNER OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

UPGRADING FROM ZR TO ZS

You are listening to ZS6SRL. Stay tuned for more detail on these and other important and interesting news items.

DETAILS OF A BURSARY SCHEME FOR LEARNERS AND STUDENTS TO BECOME RADIO AMATEURS ANNOUNCED

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust has announced details of its YARP 2007 bursary scheme. YARP is the acronym for Youth for Amateur Radio Programme. Bursaries are available for both the entry-level license and the full licence.

For both license classes the bursary will cover the lecture, examination and first year license fees and a printed copy of the SARL course material.

Upon the completion of the course and the passing of the theory and practical examination, the Trust will sponsor a year's membership of the SARL.

Application must be made on the prescribed form available on www.amateurradio.org.za.

JACQUES ROUX, ZR1ADC, WINNER OF THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CONSTRUCTION COMPETITION

Jacques Roux, ZR1ADC, has won the first phase of the UHF to VHF Down converter for the Sumbandila Satellite construction competition. After evaluating the paper design, the judges said that the proposed down-converter is a neat design and that they are looking forward to the performance results of the prototype. Jacques will receive R500 towards constructing a prototype and stands to win an ICOM VC82 hand-held transceiver, sponsored by Multisource Communication, plus a certificate and a 2007 ARRL handbook.

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust invites suggestions for topics to consider for the 2007 construction competition. Mail your ideas to saardt@intekom.co.za during the coming week. The Trust is planning to announce the details of the 2007 competition early in January.

SARL HEAD OFFICE CLOSED FOR THE YEAR-END HOLIDAYS

The National Amateur Radio Centre and the SARL Head Office will be closed for the festive season from 15 December. The office will reopen on 8 January 2007.

For urgent matters that cannot wait until early January, email secretary@sarl.org.za. Please do not call the Office administrator Vee Antal on her cell phone or at home. Mail to admin@sarl.org.za will only be attended to when the office re-opens in January.

Subscription payment by electronic transfer and by cheque can however still be made during the holiday period and will be attended to on 8 January 2007. If you are not yet a member of the SARL, the National Body for Amateur Radio in South Africa, treat yourself this Christmas. The cost of a six-month's membership from now until 30 June is only a R155. This promotional package is available only to new members, or previous members who have allowed their membership to lapse two years or longer ago. Application can be made on line at www.sarl.org.za or by downloading a form and mailing it with your cheque or an electronic payment confirmation form.

If you are renewing your current membership, the cost is R305.00

UPGRADING FROM ZR TO ZS

To avoid disappointment and confusion ZR license holders who wish to upgrade cannot use a Maritime or Marine certificate. There are many different types of Maritime certificates which do not meet the level required. The following guideline applies: a ZR licence holder requesting an upgrade to ZS must prove that he or she has successfully completed a tertiary course including an electrical, electronic or radio subject.

CONTEST NEWS

During January 2007, you can participate in the Hunting Lions in the Air

Contest over the weekend of 13 and 14 January and in the PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest over the weekend on 19 to 21 January. Contact your local Lions Club and start your arrangements.

The 2007 SARL Contest manual is at present under review and the Contest manager thanks all the radio amateurs who have submitted comments and suggestions. A draft copy of the manual is available from hfcontests@netactive.co.za which is also the address for comments and suggestions. It is planned to make the Contest Manual as well as the 2007 Diary of events available by 31 December 2006.

CLUB NEWS

Clubs and Branch committees are requested to update their club or branch information on www.sarl.org.za/public/local/clubs.asp. Some of the information on the website is almost 4 years old.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the past week's solar flares caused quite a bit of excitement on the HF bands. The solar activity for the coming week is expected to be at very low to moderate levels. The geomagnetic field is expected to range from quiet to minor storm levels on 20 until 23 December. The expected Effective Sun Spot number for the coming week will be less than 30.

20 m and 40 m will provide best opportunities for DX. There is a possibility of 20 m openings towards the East from about 14:00 CAT. From about 17:00, 20 m may open towards Europe. From 18:00, 15, 20 and 80 m may open to the USA. For the CW and digital enthusiasts, it may also be worth monitoring 10 MHz.

Please visit www.spaceweather.co.za for further information.

DIARY OF EVENTS

08 January 2007 - NARC opens; 13/14 January 2007 - Hunting Lions in the Air; 19/21 January 2007 - PEARS National VHF/UHF Contest; 3 February 2007 ERB Flea market; 16 February 2007 - Closing date for submission of entries for Tinus Lange 7066 Technical Excellence Awards; 1 March 2007 - ZU license exams; 14 April 2007 - SARL AGM.

SARL News depends on clubs and individuals for news items of importance and interest to radio amateurs. The one and only way to ensure that your contribution will reach the SARL News team, is to place it in www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It will be appreciated if you will do it in both Afrikaans and English.

The SARL also invites all listeners to listen to the program Amateur Radio Mirror International this Sunday morning at 10:00 CAT on 145,750 MHz in

the Pretoria area with relays on 7 082, 7 205 and 17 695 kHz. Audio is also streamed on www.zs6mrk.org and on Echolink from ZS6FCS as for this bulletin. A repeat transmission takes place on Mondays at 21:00 on 3 215 kHz. Telkom and Sentech sponsor the ARMI transmissions on the non-amateur frequencies.

You have been listening to a news bulletin by the South African Radio League, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS/2.

A prosperous week to all, 73.

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